



By the King.

A Proclamation conteyning his Maiesties
Royall pleasure, concerning the proiect of Dying and Dressing of Broad
Cloathes within the Kingdome, before they be exported.

IT was the worke of one of Our noble Proge-
nitors King Edward the third, to conuert the woolls of this King-
dome formerly vnted raw, into Cloath, thereby to purchase vnto
Our louing Subjects the profite, arising aswell vpon the Manufac-
ture, as vpon the Materiall, and to set Our owne people on worke
for their better sustentation and comfort; And it is likewise Our
desire, That it should be the worke of Our times, to ordaine and prouide, that all Broad
Cloathes may bee Died and Dressed within Our Kingdome before they bee Exported;
whereby aswell the second gaine of Manufacture, as the first, with all the incidents there-
of, may come wholly to the benefit of Our louing Subjects, in whose riches and good estate
wee shall alwayes thinke Our selues rich and happy. Neither is the increase of profite
vpon this great Staple commoditie onely in Our Princely eye and cogitation; But wee
foresee likewise, that when Our Cloathes shalbe Transported and dispersed by Our Sub-
jects immediatly into all the Markets of the world, where they are worne and bled, it must
encrease exceedingly Our Nauigation and Raue, so that not onely wealth, but honour,
strength and industrie will evidently follow vpon that which we propound to Our selues;
That as the Kings Our Progenitors, haue had the wisdom and Iudgement to see and
discerne the good that might come thereof; So neuerthelesse, either through difficultie or
misinformation, they haue not perfected, nor thoroughly pursued the worke intended as may
appeare by the good and politique Lawes that haue bene Enacted concerning the same on
the one part, and the ancient and Inueterate Toleration and Dispensation with the saide
Lawes, which haue bene from time to time put in bre on the other part: wee therefore
being desirous to aduance and perfect so excellent a worke, haue resolved to leaue no meanes

unperformed, either by advise of Parliament or otherwise of Our selves, which may conduce thereunto, by those safe degrees which in so great a worke are requisite: wherein though we finde no small difficulties, as it beeth to come to passe in the best workes, specially in their beginnings, yet we doubt not but to overcome the same without hazard or inconvenience vnto the present, for hope or desire of the future.

And because opinion is sometime more harmefull then trueth, and that it may bee doubted by some, that there may ensue some stand of Cloathes, whereby so many families of Our louing Subjects are maintained, or at least, some fall of Prices, to the prejudice, both of the Cloathier, and owner of Woolles in the meane time, betweene the diuerting of the old course, and setting of the new: wee doe therefore publish vnto all Our louing Subjects, by these presents, that they shall not need to feare any such consequence, either in such stand of Cloath, or abatement of Prices, as may be to their prejudice. And therefore, they may go on in the courses of their former Trading, leauing it to Our care and prouidence to manage this great and happy alteration to the better, without any interruption of Trade, or pulling downe of Price in the meane time. Furthermore although we are settled in Our resolution to effect this worke, yet would wee not haue it construed that wee haue any other opinion of the Company of Merchants Adventurers, which haue long managed the Trade of Cloathes vnderessed, then as of those that haue wel deserved of Our state; neither of any Our neighbours, who haue had correspondencie with them, and bought the Cloath from them to serue the Markets abroad, then as of men, that were affected vnto the good of their owne people, as it is naturall for men to be. Neither are wee ignorant that the state of Cloathing is at this time as flourishing and valuabable as hath beene knowen; but onely wee are willing to aduance the Dowrie and Stocke of Our Kingdome: And where wee see apparent meanes of doing Our people further good, not to tie Our selves to the simple and positieue degree of their welfare, but to proceed from good to better, and to make posteritie beholding to Our times, for going through with that, whereof Our Ancestours haue onely sowne the seedes, and not hitherto reaped the fruits.

Giuen at Our Palace of Westminster the five and twentieth day of May in the twelfth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.



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